

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 051126Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9699
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, NI, RO
SUBJECT: CESUSESCU'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

1. ROMANIA'S PRESIDENT CESUSESCU CUT SHORT FOUR-DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA ABY A FEW HOURS BECAUSE OF REPORTED EARTHQUAKE IN ROMANIA. HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, CHIEFS OF MILITARY SERVICES AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF SMC SAW CESUSESCU, HIS WIFE AND ENTOURAGE OFF EARLY IN MORNING OF MARCH 5.
 2. AFTER RECEPTION FOR HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH OBASANJO EVENING OF MARCH 2, CEAUSCECU PARTY FLEW TO CALABAR MARCH 3. THEY VISITED UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR, COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SEROMWOOD (WOOD PRODUCTS) FACTORY, A JOINT NIGERIAN-ROMANIAN VENTURE IN CROSS RIVER STATE. ON MARCH 4, LAGOS STATE GOVERNOR LAVAL TOOK CEAUSESCU ON TOUR OF LAGOS INDUSTRIAL SITES, INCLUDING VOLKSWAGEN ASSEMBLY PLANT.
 3. COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS MARCH 4 BETWEEN CEAUSESCU, OBASANJO AND EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA.
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THOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT YET HAVE TEXT, COMMUNIQUE SEEMS TO CONTAIN MOST OF THE FAMILIAR CLICHES: EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH "PROGRESSIVE, ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES," PRAISE FOR THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES' SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE, AND CALL FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ALSO MADE THAT NIGERIA AND ROMANIA ARE TO ESTABLISH JOINT COMMISSION TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC

COOPERATION.

4. NIGERIAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN VISIT SPOTTY COVERAGE. MARCH 4
//DAILY TIMES//, IN STORY ON CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO IVORY COAST,
MENTIONS ABSENTMINDEDLY IN SINGLE SENTENCE THAT ROMANIAN PRES-
IDENT "LATER ARRIVED IN LAGOS FOR A FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT. . ."
MARCH 5 //DAILY TIMES// CONTAINS NOTHING WHATEVER ON VISIT.

5. COMMENT: ROMANIA MEANS NOTHING TO MOST NIGERIANS. ATTEMPT
GENERATE APPRECIATION OF COMMON INTERESTS (E.G. THAT BOTH
NIGERIA AND ROMANIA ARE MEMBERS OF GROUP OF 77 AND FAVOR NIEO)
HAS NOT AROUSED MUCH INTEREST IN CEAUSESCU'S VISIT. IT IS
HARD FOR NIGERIANS ACCEPT EUROPEANS, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL
STRIPE, AS BONA FIDE THIRD WORLD COMRADES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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